An Entomologist in Radnorshire, 1971

By L. K. Evans

From 17th to 23rd July last year I was fortunate to be able to explore entomologically the little-known county of Radnorshire. My collecting having been previously confined almost entirely to the southern part of England, I considered this a venture into the unknown, and I found the experience both exciting and

enjoyable.

In view of the short time at my disposal I chose for working what I considered the most extreme habitats ecologically and the most widely separated geographically. As many of the national survey's 10 km. squares were covered as possible. As a lepidopterist I concentrated on the moths, but also took for identification examples of other orders: these were collected more or less

casually.

Entomologically, Radnorshire must be among the most neglected counties in Britain, hence I have thought it worthwhile to detail the insects observed in full, as far as it has been possible to have them determined. In this I follow the format of Chalmers-Hunt (1969), who reported on an expedition to neighbouring Breconshire. Even for the macrolepidoptera, the only published account of the Radnorshire fauna of which I am aware is that of Gordon Smith (1953), and the records contained therein are almost entirely the work of the Reverend F. M. B. Carr between 1911 and 1913. Of the 166 "macros" observed by me in 1971, no less than 88 do not appear on that list, which gives some idea

of the extent of our knowledge on this subject!

Despite its very beautiful scenery, Radnorshire is ecologically a rather uniform county. There is a marked lack of all kinds of deciduous woodland, and the sheep-grazing practised on almost all areas of upland reduces the diversity of habitats available to insects. It is perhaps not surprising to record, therefore, that nothing really startling was observed. Nevertheless, some moths did turn up unexpectedly: Leucania straminea Treits., abundantly at Newbridge; Apatele alni L., a melanic at an exceptionally late date; Apamea scolopacina Esp., and Lygephila pastinum Treits. One Hemistola immaculata Thunb. was taken in the marsh at Rhosgoch—a most unexpected capture for this type of locality. As a southern collector, I was also delighted to see such species as Plusia bractea D. & S., P. interrogationis L., and Apamea furva D. & S.

Of the localities visited, 4 sites were sampled with mercury-

vapour apparatus:

HUNDRED HOUSE (10 km. square, 32/15). Sheep-grazed hillside with bracken, few trees, some boggy spots. 17th to 22nd July. Traps sited variously at 700 ft., 950 ft., and 1,050 ft., but not all on the same nights, so no direct comparisons possible. Newbridge-on-Wye (32/05). Marshy area and mixed woodland adjacent to the River Wye, altitude 450 ft. 19th and 21st July.

LLANDEILO GRABAN (32/04). Open Calluna/Vaccinium moor, with bracken and stunted hawthorn. Altitude 1,200 ft. 20th July.

RHOSGOCH (32/14). Swampy area with Typha, Alnus and adjacent

pasture. Altitude 800 ft. 23rd July.

More casual recording was also carried out at Aberedw (roadside verges); Felindre, Ddôl (1,300 ft.), Moelfre, New Radnor, and Littlehill Common near Llanbister (1,200 ft.).

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MACROLEPIDOPTERA

Papilionoidea

Pieris brassicae L., Hundred House, 17.7. P. rapae L., Hundred House. P. napi L., Hundred House; Aberedw; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Maniola jurtina L., Hundred House; Aberedw; Newbridge; Littlehill Common; Moelfre; Rhosgoch. Coenonympha pamphilus L., Hundred House; Littlehill Common —rather pale specimens. Aglais urticae L., Hundred House; Newbridge. Vanessa atalanta L., Felindre, 21.7, one. Nymphalis io L., New Radnor, larvae on Urtica dioica. Argynnis aglaja L., Hundred House, 17.7, one. Clossiana euphrosyne L., Rhosgoch, 23.7, many, very worn. Ochlodes venata Brem. & Grey, Hundred House; Aberedw; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Thymelicus sylvestris Poda, Hundred House; Aberedw; Newbridge.

Sphingoidea

Laothöe populi L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Deilephila elpenor L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo. D. porcellus L., Rhosgoch, one.

Notodontoidea

Pheosia tremula Clerck, Rhosgoch, two. P. gnoma Fab., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo; Rhosgoch, very common. Notodonta ziczac L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch, abundant. N. dromedarius L., Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Lophopteryx capucina L., Rhosgoch, abundant; Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo. Phalera bucephala L., Hundred House; Newbridge. Stauropus fagi L., Newbridge, 21.7, one.

Drepanoidea

Drepana falcataria L., Newbridge, one. D. lacertinaria L., Rhosgoch, one.

Bombycoidea

Macrothylacia rubi L., Hundred House, larvae. Philudoria potatoria L., Hundred House, Newbridge. Euproctis similis Fuessly, Newbridge. Nola cuculatella L., Llandeilo, one at m.v.l. Nudaria mundana L., Hundred House, frequent flying along stone walls at dusk. Thumatha senex Hubn., Rhosgoch, two. Lithosia lurideola Zinck., Rhosgoch, one. Cybosia mesomella L., Newbridge, two. Spilosoma lubricipeda L., Hundred House; Newbridge. S. lutea Hufn., Hundred House; Llandeilo; Rhosgoch. Arctia caja L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch.

Noctuoidea

Thyatira batis L., Newbridge. Agrotis puta Hubn., Hundred House. A. exclamationis L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo; Rhosgoch. Lycophotia varia de Vill., Hundred House, 2; Llandeilo, ca. 350, including many brightly-marked forms; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Graphiphora augur Fab., Hundred House, 6; Newbridge, 4; Rhosgoch, 8; almost all taken at a 6W actinic tube. Diarsia brunnea D. & S., Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. D. mendica Fab., Llandeilo, abundant, including many very small examples; Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. ?D. rubi View., Newbridge, 19.7, 2; Rhosgoch, 23.7, 5, all worn: probably referable to f. (?sp.) florida Schmidt. Ochropleura plecta L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo; Rhosgoch. Amathes baja D. & S., Hundred House: Newbridge; Llandeilo; Rhosgoch—common and extremely variable in ground colour. A. c-nigrum L., Hundred House; Rhosgoch. A. ditrapezium D. & S., Hundred House, 14; Newbridge, 13; Llandeilo, 4; Rhosgoch, 3—apparently a common insect. A. triangulum Hufn., Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Axylia putris L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Anaplectoides prasina D. & S., Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Euschesis janthina D. & S., Hundred House. Noctua pronuba L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo; Rhosgoch. Lampra fimbriata Schreber, Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Anarta myrtilli L., Llandeilo, larva on Calluna. Melanchra persicariae L., Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Polia nebulosa Hufn., Hundred House; Newbridge, including one very pale specimen. Diataraxia oleracea L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Ceramica pisi L., Hundred House, including almost obsolete forms; Newbridge; Llandeilo; Rhosgoch. Hada nana Hufn., Llandeilo, 1. Hadena thalassina D. & S., Hundred House, 1; Newbridge, 1. H. rivularis Fab., Newbridge. Cerapteryx graminis L., Hundred House, plentiful at 700 ft., scarce at higher, sheep-grazed levels; Newbridge. Leucania pallens L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo; Rhosgoch. L. impura Hubn.,

Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. L. straminea Treits., Newbridge, very plentiful amongst *Phragmites*. L. lithargyria Esp., Hundred House; Newbridge. Cucullia umbratica L., Newbridge, 3; Rhosgoch, 2. C. verbasci L., Aberedw, roadside Verbascum plants mostly destroyed by larvae. Xylena vetusta Hubn., Rhosgoch, a larva. Bombycia viminalis D. & S., Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Apatele leporina L., Moelfre, 2 larvae on Alnus glutinosa. A. megacephala D. & S., Hundred House; Newbridge. A. alni L., 21.7, Newbridge, 1 melanic ab. steinerti Caspari. A. psi L., Llandeilo, &; Newbridge, &; both gen. det. LKE. A. rumicis L., Hundred House; Newbridge. Craniophora ligustri D. & S., Hundred House, 18.7, Q. Rusina ferruginea Esp., Hundred House, 20.7, 1. Apamea lithoxylea D. & S., Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. A. monoglypha Hufn., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo; Rhosgoch. A. epomidion Haw., Hundred House, 1. A. crenata Hufn., Hundred House, common and variable; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. A. remissa Hubn., Hundred House, 2 at 950 ft., 2 at 700 ft.; Newbridge, 6; Rhosgoch, 5. A. furva britannica Cockayne, Hundred House, 7 at 1,050 ft., 1 at 950 ft.; Llandeilo, 1 at 1,200 ft. A. scolopacina Esp., Newbridge, 4; Hundred House, 3. A. secalis L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Procus strigilis Clerck, Hundred House, &; Newbridge, 2 &&, gen. det. LKE. P. latruncula D. & S., Newbridge, 3 &&; Llandeilo, &; Hundred House, &; all gen. det. LKE. P. versicolor Borkh., Newbridge, 3 & 3, \(\phi \); Llandeilo, \(\phi \); Hundred House, \(\phi \); all gen. det. LKE. \(P. \) fasciuncula Haw., Newbridge. \(Euplexia \) lucipara L., Hundred House; Newbridge. Phlogophora meticulosa L., Hundred House; Rhosgoch. Petilampa minima Haw., Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Caradrina morpheus Hufn., Rhosgoch. C. alsines Brahm., Newbridge; Hundred House, uncommon. C. blanda D. & S., Hundred House; Newbridge, plentiful, including 1 heavily suffused specimen. C. clavipalpis Scop., Hundred House, 1. Nonagria typhae Thunb., Newbridge, larvae in Typha latifolia. Cosmia trapezina L., Rhosgoch. Euclidimera mi L., Hundred House, a larva amongst grasses. Polychrisia moneta Fab., Newbridge, 19.7, 1. Plusia chrysitis L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo. P. bractea D. & S., Newbridge, 3; Hundred House, 2. P. festucae L., Hundred House, 1; Newbridge, 6; Rhosgoch, 7. P. jota L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo; Rhosgoch—generally abundant, with much variation in ground colour and the development of the Y-mark. P. pulchrina Hubn., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo, especially common; Rhosgoch—much variation in the development of the Y-mark. *P. gamma* Hubn., Hundred House, 18.7, 1, 22.7, 1; Newbridge, 19.7, 2; Rhosgoch, 23.7, 5. P. interrogationis L., Llandeilo, 1; Rhosgoch, 1. Unca triplasia L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Lygephila pastinum Treits., Hundred House, 1; Newbridge, 3. Rivula sericealis Scop., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo; Rhosgoch, abundant. Hypena proboscidalis L., Hundred House; Newbridge. Zanclognatha tarsipennalis Treits., Newbridge. Z. nemoralis Fab., Hundred House; Newbridge.

Geometroidea

Hemistola immaculata Thunb., Rhosgoch, 1. Geometra papilionaria L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Pseudopterpna pruinata atropunctaria Walker, Hundred House; Newbridge; Littlehill Common; Rhosgoch; Llandeilo. Calothysanis amata L., Hundred House. Sterrha dimidiata Hufn., Hundred House; Newbridge. S. straminata Borkh., Hundred House, 18.7, 1. S. aversata L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo. S. biselata Hufn., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo. S. biselata Hufn., Hundred House; Newbridge. Xanthorhoë montanata D. & S., Rhosgoch, 23.7, abundant and in very fresh condition. X. ferrugata Clerck, Hundred House; Newbridge. X. spadicearia D. & S., Hundred House. X. designata Hufn., Newbridge, 2. Orthonama lignata Hubn., Rhosgoch, 5. Ortholitha plumbaria Fab., Llandeilo; Littlehill Common, abundant. Colostygia pectinataria Knoch., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo; Littlehill Common; Moelfre; Rhosgoch. Perizoma alchemillata I. Newbridge, 2. Lyncometra ocellata I. Hundred alchemillata L., Newbridge, 2. Lyncometra ocellata L., Hundred House; Newbridge. Lygris pyraliata D. & S., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo; Littlehill Common; Rhosgoch, very abundant. L. populata L., Newbridge, 3; Rhosgoch, 1; Llandeilo, swarming at dusk over Vaccinium myrtillus. L. testata L., Llandeilo, reared from larvae found on Vaccinium and Calluna. Cidaria fulvata Forst., Newbridge. Thera obeliscata Hubn., Newbridge, 1. Hydriomena furcata Thunb., Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Odezia atrata L., Hundred House, 21.7, by day, Q. Epirrhoë alternata Mull., Hundred House; Newbridge; Littlehill Common; Rhosgoch. Eupithecia pulchellata Steph., Hundred House. E. nanata angusta Prout, Llandeila. 20.7, 1. E. cantigata Hubn. Llandeila. E. Invisione. Llandeilo, 20.7, 1. E. castigata Hubn., Llandeilo. E. lariciata Freyer, Newbridge, 19.7, 1, and two "probables". Chloroclystis rectangulata L., Hundred House, 1, melanic. C. coronata Hubn., Newbridge. Gymnoscelis pumilata Hubn., Hundred House; Rhosgoch. Abraxas grossulariata L., Hundred House; Newbridge. Lomaspilis marginata L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo; Rhosgoch. Deilinia pusaria L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. D. exanthemata Scop., Newbridge, 3. Ellopia fasciaria L., Hundred House, 1; Llandeilo, 1; Newbridge, commonly. Campaea margaritata L., Hundred House; Newbridge, plentiful; Rhosgoch. Selenia bilunaria Esp., Hundred House; Rhosgoch. Apeira syringaria L., Newbridge, 21.7, 1. Crocallis elinguaria L., Hundred House; Newbridge. Ourapteryx sambucaria L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Opisthograptis luteolata L., Newbridge; Llandeilo. Semiothisa liturata Clerck, Hundred House; Newbridge, abundantly; Llandeilo. Biston betularia L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo; Rhosgoch—a total of 8 type specimens, and 1 f. insularia. Alcis repandata L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Bupalus piniaria L., Newbridge, 2. Itame wauaria L., Newbridge, 1;

Rhosgoch, 1.

Zvgaenoidea

Zygaena trifolii Esp. (ssp. decreta Vty.), Newbridge, 1, very large specimen. Z. lonicerae transferens Vty., Rhosgoch, 1.

Hepialoidea

Hepialus humuli L., Hundred House, commonly, including empty pupa case projecting from anthill; Aberedw; Newbridge, 33 at dusk. H. fusconebulosa de Geer., Llandeilo, 4 at dusk; Hundred House, 1; New Radnor—2 pupa cases projecting from a mossy bank. H. hecta L., Hundred House, 17.7, & at dusk.

MICROLEPIDOPTERA

(det. J. M. Chalmers-Hunt unless otherwise indicated)

Crambus perlellus Scop. (det. LKE), Newbridge. C. tristellus Fab., Hundred House; Rhosgoch. C. culmellus L., Newbridge; Llandeilo; Hundred House; New Radnor; Ddôl; Littlehill Common—occurring in swarms wherever the grass escaped grazing. C. inquinatellus D. & S., Hundred House, abundant; Newbridge; Llandeilo; Littlehill Common; New Radnor. C. hortuellus Hubn., Newbridge; Llandeilo; Rhosgoch. pascuellus L., Hundred House; Littlehill Common; Newbridge. C. margaritellus Hubn., Rhosgoch, 1. Aphomia sociella L. (det. LKE), Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo. Sylepta ruralis Scop. (det. LKE), Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Harpalis olivalis D. & S. (det. LKE), Hundred House; Rhosgoch. H. lutealis Hubn., Hundred House; Llandeilo; Aberedw. prunalis D. & S., Newbridge. Rhodaria purpuralis L., Hundred House, 22.7, 1. R. cespitalis D. & S., Newbridge, 1. Pyralis costalis Fab., Hundred House. Nomophila noctuella D. & S., Newbridge, 21.7, several. Dioryctria abietella Fab., Newbridge, 1. D. fusca Haw., Newbridge, 1. Platyptilia pallidactyla Haw., Rhosgoch, 23.7, 2. Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla Scop. (det LKE), Rhosgoch, 3. Alucita pentadactyla L., Newbridge.

Tortrix unifasciana Dup., Hundred House, \(\varphi \). T. loeflingiana

L., Llandeilo; Newbridge. T. viridana L. (det. LKE), Newbridge. Pandemis heparana D. & S., Hundred House; Llandeilo; Rhosgoch. P. corylana Fab., Hundred House. P. ribeana Hubn., Hundred House, 22.7, 1. Carcina quercana Fab., Newbridge. Cacoecia podana Scop., Newbridge. C. xylosteana L., Newbridge. Philedone gerningana D. & S., Littlehill Common, 21.7, 2. Argyroploce lacunana Dup., Hundred House; Newbridge; Aberedw; Llandeilo. A. nubiferana Haw., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo; Rhosgoch. A. striana D. & S., Newbridge, 19.7, 1. Argyrotoxa bergmanniana L., Newbridge; Rhosgoch. A. conwagana Fab., Llandeilo; Aberedw; Hundred House; Newbridge; Rhosgoch. Laspeyresia ulicetana Haw., Newbridge; Ddôl, many amongst Ulex. L. woeberiana D. & S., Rhosgoch. Euxanthis hamana L., Hundred House. E. angustana Hubn., Ddôl. Bactra lanceolana Hubn., Rhosgoch. Acroclita

naevana Hubn., Llandeilo. Cnephasia osseana Scop., Llandeilo,

very numerous; Newbridge; Rhosgoch.

Sophronia semicostella Hubn., Hundred House. Acedes semifulvella Haw., Newbridge. Pleurota bicostella Clerck., Llandeilo, 20.7, several. Endrosis sarcitrella L., Hundred House, in dwellings and at m.v.l. Borkhausenia pseudospretella Staint., Rhosgoch Argyresthia goedartella L., Littlehill Common, many flying around isolated birches: Llandeilo.

TRICHOPTERA

(All det. P. E. S. Whalley) All taken at m.v.l.

Limnephilus luridus Curt., Rhosgoch, 4. L. centralis Curt., Rhosgoch, 1; Hundred House, 1. L. lunatus Curt., Hundred House, 1; Llandeilo, 1; Rhosgoch, 2; L. auricula Curt., Hundred House, 2. L. sparsata Curt., Hundred House, 1. Glyphotaelius pellucidulus Retz., Rhosgoch, 1. Polycentropus flavomaculatus Pictet, Rhosgoch, 1. Athripsodes dissimilis M'Lach., Newbridge, 1. Oecetis testacea Curt., Newbridge, 1. Lepidostoma hirtum Fab., Hundred House, 1; Newbridge, 1. Stenophylax sequax M'Lach., Hundred House, 1. Potamophylax latipennis Curt., Hundred House, 2; Newbridge, 1. Hydropsyche instabilis Curt., Hundred House, 1; Newbridge, 1; Rhosgoch, 4. H. pellucidula Curt., Rhosgoch, 1.

NEUROPTERA

(det. P. E. S. Whalley)

Hemerobius stigma Steph., Newbridge, 1; Rhosgoch, 1.

COLEOPTERA

(det. E. Lewis unless otherwise indicated)

Tachinus marginellus Fab., Hundred House, swept. Sitona puncticollis Steph., Hundred House, 22.7, 3 in an m.v. trap. Phyllobius virideaeris Laich., Aberedw, on Linaria vulgaris. Rhinoncus pericarpius L., Hundred House, on thistles. Ceuthorrhyncus sp (?asperifoliarum Gyll.), Hundred House, on thistle. Gymnetron antirrhini Pk., Aberedw, numerous on Linaria vulgaris; Newbridge. Phytonomus rumicis L., Hundred House, 18.7, a pupa, reared 29.7.

Aphodius rufipes L., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo; Rhosgoch, abundant at light. A. fimetarius L., Hundred House, 22.7, 2 at m.v.l. Serica brunnea L., Llandeilo, 20.7, found very abundantly after dark with the aid of a lantern, crawling over grazed grassy patches on a Calluna moor, many pairs in copula. Helophorus minutus Fab., New Radnor, 2 on the wall of an Inn;

Hundred House, 1 under a stone in a small stream.

Carabus granulatus L., Hundred House, 1 on the front doormat. C. problematicus Hubn. (det. L. H. Evans), Hundred House, under moth trap, 22.7. Notiophilus biguttatus Fab., New Radnor, numerous on a mossy bank. Nebria brevicollis Fab., Hundred House; Newbridge; Llandeilo. Pterostichus madidus Fab., Hundred House; Llandeilo. P. niger Schal., Hundred House; P. vulgaris L., Hundred House. Agonum mülleri Hbst.,

Llandeilo, 1.

Gastroidea viridula de Geer, Aberedw, on Linaria vulgaris. Luperus longicornis Fab., Hundred House, Rhosgoch. Gallerucella lineola Fab., Rhosgoch, 2 swept. Aphthona venustula Kuts., Hundred House, swept. Cantharis fulvicollis Fab., Rhosgoch, swept. Anobium punctatum D.G., Hundred House, in buildings.

Trichius fasciatus L., Hundred House, 17.7, 2 flying in bright sunshine, netted in error for the bee Bombus muscorum L. Necrodes littoralis L., Hundred House, 22.7, 3 at m.v.l. Necrophorus investigator Zett., Newbridge, at m.v.l. Attagenus pellio L., Hundred House. Telmatophilus typhae Fall., Newbridge, on Typha latifolia. Lathridius nodifer West, New Radnor, 1 on the wall of an Inn.

Cassida rubiginosa Mull. (det. L. H. Evans), Hundred House, larvae on thistle, bred. Coccinella septempunctata L. (det. L. H. Evans), Hundred House. Anisosticta 19-punctata L., Rhosgoch, swept from alders. Cateretes rufilabris Lat., Newbridge, on

Linaria vulgaris.

DIPTERA

(All det. P. J. Chandler)

Xylota sylvarum L., Newbridge. Scaeva pyrastri L., Hundred House. Hybomitra distinguenda Verr., Newbridge. Platycheirus albimanus F., Newbridge. Eristalis arbustorum L., Rhosgoch. Haematopota pluvialis L., Rhosgoch. Hydrotaea irritans Fall., Llandeilo; Littlehill Common. Pallenia vespillo F., Rhosgoch. Empis livida L., Rhosgoch. Chrysopilus cristatus F., Rhosgoch. Anisopus punctatus F., Hundred House. Scatophaga stercoraria L., Hundred House. Campylochaeta inepta Meig., Llandeilo. Delia trichodactyla Rdi., Rhosgoch. Copromyza similis Collin, Rhosgoch. Nupedia infirma Meig., Newbridge. Tipula lateralis Meig., Hundred House.

HYMENOPTERA

Bombus muscorum L. (det. P. N. Crow), Hundred House. Tenthredo balteata Klug., Llandeilo, Q. Athalia lineolata Lep., Llandeilo (both det. P. J. Chandler).

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